

THE
ADVENTURES
OF
Capt. *De la Fontaine*,
LATE AN
OFFICER

In the SERVICE of the
STATES-GENERAL,

CONTAINING

A Series of Singular and Interesting Events,
Political, Amorous, and Military, in *France*,
Holland, *Turky*, the *Dutch West-Indies*, *Eng-*
land, &c,

Taken from his

MANUSCRIPT, and Revised (at his own Request)

By a GENTLEMAN.

Voluptas Honestati est contraria.

CICERO.

———The Sons of Riot flow
Down the loose Stream of false enchanting Joy
To swift Destruction.

THOMSON'S SEASONS.

LONDON:

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THE
ADVENTURES
OF
CAPT. BOY IN FORTITUDE
OF THE
FLEET

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THE
GENTLEMAN

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The story of how
from the first of the
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The story of the

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The story of the
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MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE

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M. De la Fontaine.

CAPT. DE LA FONTAINE, whose Memoirs I am about to relate, was born of a very ancient Family in *France*. His Grandfather was a Baron, and descended immediately from the Family of the Marquis *De la Fontaine*. The Captain lived as a private Gentleman 'till he arrived to the Age of Twenty ; when his Inclination, which strongly biassed him to a Military Life, was gratified by his Most Christian Majesty's bestowing a Commission upon him, in a Regiment commanded by the Duke *de Boufflers*.

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In a Campaign at *Philipsburg*, where the Duke of *Berwick* commanded, he discovered so gallant a Spirit, and a Mind-so well adapted to the Business of a Soldier, that his Grace, who was a great Discerner of Merit, thought proper to take particular Notice of him, and intended to prefer him.

Towards the Close of the Campaign, he got Leave from Marshal *Berwick* to retire a little from the Clangor of Arms, to pay a Visit to his Relations, and perform the Reverence due to a Father. After conversing some Time with his Friends at *Paris*, he went to a small Town about sixty Miles distant, where he spent six Weeks; when he, for the first Time, felt his Heart enslaved by the Influence of Beauty. As the Passion of Love prevails most in Solitude, where Affection is not dissipated, and Choice bewilder'd by Variety, so *De la Fontaine*, who had seen a little of the World, and who possessed from Nature a very happy Address, which was never embarrassed by a troublesome Modesty, soon made considerable Progress in this young Lady's Heart. He proposed Marriage, to which the Lady had no Aversion; but this Proposal was disconcerted by the Obstinacy of her Parent, who did not think proper to
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give his Daughter to a military Adventurer, by which he would be obliged to suffer her Absence; and, as in gay Life there is seldom great Stability in Love, he was not sure that his Daughter would still have the same Influence over her Husband that she had over her Lover, and absolutely forbid the Match; but such was the Force of an early Passion, that the Gratitude due to Parents, the Tenderneſs and Delicacy of Beauty, and the Virgin Bluſh of Modeſty, muſt all give way to the Indulgence of Love.

The young Lady agreed to elope, and and riſk her Fortune with her Lover. The Fatigues of journeying, the Conſequence of her Father's Reſentment; and, what ought ſtill more to have deterred her from the Attempt, the Danger ſhe was in with a Man, whoſe Appetites and Paſſions were violent to the laſt Degree, weighed nothing in the Balance with *De la Fontaine's* Perſon; nor can it eaſily be believed, that the young Fugitives were long in taſting the promiſed Joys, in the warmeſt Embrace of conſenting Love.

Things for their Departure being prepared, they ſet out early in the Morning, in a Poſt-Chaiſe. The young Lady expected her Lover on the Wall, and precipitately

rushed into his Arms. Expedition was now their Business, in which *De la Fontaine* exerted his Talents; but first, to prevent Discovery by a Pursuit, he took the necessary Precaution to have the Nails in his Horses Shoes all turn'd the wrong Way.

They took their Route for *Rouen*; where he lived with her for a Month undiscovered, in all the Freedom of Husband and Wife; and, imagining the Parents Resentment to have subsided, he carried her to *Paris*; where he advised her, for fear of a Discovery, to retire into a Convent, as a Boarder, 'till Things might be so adjusted as to remove all Apprehension of Danger, by conciliating Relations. With this Proposal the Lady complied, after expressing the most tender Concern for his Happiness, for which she seemed willing to sacrifice every other Consideration. But she had not been long in her Retirement, before *De la Fontaine*, by a special Writ under the Seal of his Most Christian Majesty, was arrested; and after a vigorous Struggle, and wounding some of the Officers, carried to Jail.

In this Dilemma he wrote to the Lady a Letter, full of Tenderness, and ardent Professions of Love; requesting she would excuse,

case, for some Time, his discontinuing his Visits, as he was commanded by his Majesty to go a recruiting in the Country. But, as this Expedient could not long avail him, besides the Desire of Possession, which instigated him strongly to see her, he fell upon another, better adapted to the Purpose of Lovers.

He had for some Time beheld, not without some Motions of Passion, the blooming Beauties of the Jailor's Daughter; and, upon discoursing seriously with her on the Affairs of Gallantry, found that she had a Heart pretty susceptible of Love: To her therefore he made his Addresses; and so far succeeded, that she secretly let him out twice a Week, late at Night, to pay a Visit to his occasional Recluse; nor need it be doubted, that the Fair Jailor did not sometimes receive from the Captain a proper Retribution for her Kindness.

In this kind of Traffic did he continue some Weeks, till at last his Trial came on; and as the Crime, of which he was charged, was capital, it was necessary all Means should be used for saving his Life; and such indeed is the Severity of the *French* Law for those Offences, that nothing but the Lady's appearing in Court, and acknowledging

ledging her Flight to be voluntary, and that on the Captain's Side no Violence was used, could have saved him from the impending Stroke of Justice. Upon her Protestations he was acquitted; but the Joy was soon overclouded by the sudden Death of the Lady, occasioned by the Melancholy into which the Captain's Situation had thrown her, and the miserable Prospect of living a Slave to her Parents Caprice, and being exposed to the Ridicule of the World. She fell a beauteous Victim to Love, and left behind her one Pledge of their Endearments.

There seems to have been, in this Lady's Disposition, something generous and noble; though her Sentiments of Love have the Appearance of being derived from Romances. I know not if Reason and Duty can approve her disregarding the Authority of her Parents; for an instantaneous Passion, as hers seems to have been, however violent, ought not to supercede the Gratitude, Tenderness, and inviolable Obligations of a Daughter: Had she waited a more favourable Opportunity to gratify the Rage of her Love, she would have stood fairer for the Applauses of Posterity, and higher in the Lists of Honour and Reputation.

After this Misfortune, *De la Fontaine*, who was of too rapid a Temper to be long under the Influence of Melancholy, had Recourse again to Arms. The Duke *de Boufflers*, Governor of *Lisle*, bestowed upon him an Ensign's Commission, the same Year that the present Dauphin was born ; where he had an Opportunity of witnessing the Solemnities upon that Occasion, which were very magnificent and striking.

At the Campaign at *Kale*, *De la Fontaine*, who belonged to the oldest Regiment, whose Business it was to enter the Entrenchments first, behaved with a remarkable Resolution ; he received a Wound in his Leg, which so little disconcerted him, that the Duke of *Berwick*, who witnessed his receiving it, put his Left Hand on his Shoulder, and animated him with saying, That his Bravery should not pass without a Reward : Nor did this noble Captain forget his Promise ; he was above the Meaness of a Court Smile, nor knew how to raise Expectations with one Breath, and blast them with another.

Next Campaign *De la Fontaine* received a Lieutenancy of the Grenadiers from his Grace. Before the Attack of Fort *Kale*, it
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was his Turn one Day to mount the grand Guard, some Miles beyond the Camp, near the Side of a Wood; when, to his Amazement, a Lady from *Strasburg*, with a very splendid Equipage, came to the Duke of *Berwick*, with a Pass from Marshal *Bellisle*, and a Letter, soliciting his Grace to permit her to speak to the Captain, pretending some Business of great Importance. Though the Marshal very readily guess'd that the Business was of an amorous Nature, yet he complied with her Request, and commanded a Party of Soldiers to conduct her to the Place where *De la Fontaine* then was. This Lady had fallen in Love with him before his last Intrigue at *Paris*; and hearing of the Death of her Rival, she came in Person to claim his Heart. As soon as the first Transports were over, and their Fondness had subsided into Conversation, this Amazon proposed to enter herself a Volunteer in the Army, to assume the Habit and Part of Man, (being already divested of all the Cowardice, Bashfulness, and, one may say, the Softness, of her Sex) and live and die with *De la Fontaine*.

She applied to Marshal *Berwick*, for his Permission to put her Scheme in Execution; who, struck with the Novelty of the Design, the uncommon Spirit of the Lady, and

and the Ardour of a Passion, that could make a Woman forego the Privileges of her Sex, and expose herself to the Rigours of a Campaign, granted her Request.

She immediately dress'd herself in Regimentals, mounted Guard, performed Exercise, and inured herself to all the Business of a Soldier; and when the Day was spent in the Hurry of military Preparations, *De la Fontaine* and she retired together to the same Tent: Nor is it to be doubted, though there had been no Ceremony of Marriage, but that one Bed contained them both, where *De la Fontaine* had nightly an Opportunity of distinguishing her Sex.

After the Campaign they returned to *Strasburg*, where the Female Adventurer was seized with the Small Pox, of which she died; and as she inherited a very great Fortune, she left Part of it to her Lover.

The Sex in general have some Reason to blush for this Lady's Conduct: Never was a more flagrant Violation of their Sex's Modesty; nor does she merit any thing but Contempt, who can overcome the Softness of her Nature, and roughen to the Ferocity of Man. Nature has poured a Delicacy on their Limbs, which should render them

unfit to face the Terrors of War ; sufficient for them, that they can allure Men with winning Blandishments, and hold them enslaved by gentle Smiles ; but it seems to have been the Fortune of *De la Fontaine* to have all his Enamorato's change their Nature, and risk for him Character, Virtue, and All.

Next Season he went under the Command of Marshal *Berwick*, and was present with him at the Siege of *Philipsburgh*, when there was an Over-flow of the *Rhine*, and the Detachments commanded for the Siege were obliged to wade thro' the Waters with vast Precipitation. When Marshal *Berwick* was viewing the Fortifications of the Town, a Cannon-ball, precipitated by the Doom of *France*, pierced the Heart of one of the greatest Men produced in any Nation. He inherited all the undaunted Resolution and generous Greatness of his Family. He was brave, indefatigable, patient and merciful : His Person carried in it an Air of Dignity ; his Eyes flashed with the Fire of a Soldier, mixed with the Tendernefs of a Companion ; he prejudiced one at first Sight in his Favour ; and the more he was known, one's Affections towards him became more firmly riveted.

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By the Death of the Duke of *Berwick*, *De la Fontaine* lost his Patron, and not seeing any favourable Prospect to retain him in the Army, quitted his Post, and set out to make the Tour of *Europe*; but, as he travelled for the Gratification of his Curiosity, and to furnish himself better for the World, he made no great Stay at any particular Place, nor entered into any Cabals, the Relation of which would much amuse the Reader: He enquired into the Policy of the different Countries, their Manufactures, Trade, and Commerce; but particularly was industrious to find out the Genius and Temper of the People, how much they were influenced by Education, and how far the Soil and Situation of Countries were necessary to forming a national Characteristic; and, by these Means, made considerable Advances in the Knowledge of the human Heart, which is the grand Point a Traveller should aim at, and not merely addict himself to the Knowledge of Fashions, or the Conquest of Women, by which our young Travellers generally return greater Fools than when they set out, and only more instructed in the Mazes of Intrigue.

After his Return from his Travels, he resided three Months at *Paris*, where, having the Misfortune to engage in a Quarrel with an Officer belonging to the Regiment of *La Reine*, it was necessary that he should go abroad again. He entered himself as an Officer of the Marines on Board the *St. Vincent*, bound for *Martinico*, but had the Misfortune to be taken by the *Algerines* and carried to *Constantinople*, where, for nineteen Days, he was confined to a loathsome Dungeon, twenty Steps under Ground, without any other Means of Support than Bread and Water. To this barbarous Treatment were added the Insults of the Jailers, who hourly remonstrated against his Religion, and used all their Persuasion in vain, to make him relinquish the sacred Religion of *Jesus*, embrace their unreasonable Faith, and kiss the *Alcoran*. To their Persuasions they added sometimes Promises and sometimes Threats; all which *De la Fontaine* heard with Contempt, resolving rather to perish by the Miseries of Want, than abandon a Faith his Education had early implanted in his Mind, his Reason had since confirmed, and his Heart entirely approved.

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This Conduct of *De la Fontaine* ought not to pass without Applause ; though, he seems not, in his ordinary Course of Life, to have been much under the Influence of Piety, yet it appears, that he had studied and revered our holy Faith , and that the Strength of his Appetites, not Principles, made him act so often contrary to its divine Precepts.

No Candle was allowed him, nor Pen, Ink nor Paper. By speaking a little of the *Italian* Tongue, he became acquainted with a Prisoner in that Jail, who was a Native of *Italy*, and, being a Man of good Sense, and seemingly of a very amiable Disposition, he disclosed to him his Story, and entreated him, as he was permitted to walk in the Yard, that he would procure him the Means of writing to the *French* Consul, to solicit with the Signior his Enlargement. The *Italian* told him, that the *French* Consul had then retired into the Country ; but that there was in Town a young Nobleman of *Scotland*, called Lord C——d, to whom, if he would write, he doubted not, but, from the Character of his Lordship's Humanity, he would interpose his Interest for him.

Upon hearing this Character of his Lordship, he solicited his *Italian* Friend to convey him Pen, Ink, and Paper, concealed in the best Manner, with a little Tinder and Flint to strike a Light ; which he soon effected, carefully putting them in the Heart of Oranges, and sent them at different Times. These Necessaries being procur'd, he wrote to his Lordship in the most plaintive Stile he could, and made a full Representation of his Hardships, and, by Means of his Friend, had it convey'd to him.

This brave compassionate Nobleman, who seems to have inherited all the characteristical Virtues of his Country, next Day waited on him at his Cell-door, and engaged his Honour to attempt his Enlargement, by going directly to the Grand Signior. In this he succeeded; and, in a few Days, *De la Fontaine* was allowed the Liberty of the Town ; only he was obliged to surrender himself at Six o' Clock every Evening ; and in this Manner lived till an Order for his Releasement came from the Court of *France*.

As soon as he procured his Liberty, he waited on the Grand Signior, and represented

presented the Miseries he had suffered, who received him with great Politeness, and apologized for his Misfortune. He then rose from his Seat, and presented *De la Fontaine* with a Purse of Gold, to the Amount of 100 *l.* Sterling; and, very complaisantly, wished him a more favourable Situation.

No sooner had he received his Dismission from the Sultan, than he embarked aboard a Vessel bound for *Holland*; and, arriving safe at *Amsterdam*, he there resided a Twelvemonth, and met with a Reception as civil as can be supposed amongst a People where Politeness is but yet dawning; a People immoderately attentive to their own Interest, and the Acquisition of Wealth; a People naturally dull and phlegmatic, who are without the volatile Sprightliness of the *French*, the good Sense and Dignity of Manners peculiar to the *English*, or the noble Disinterestedness and hospitable Spirit of the *Scots*. But yet, amongst those boorish People, *De la Fontaine*, whose reigning Passion was Love, found another Mistress, equally complaisant with the former: She had, indeed, a natural Shyness, and a certain Awkwardness, that, at first Sight, were forbidding; but a Man of Penetration might easily dis-

'discern that these were the Consequence of Want of Politeness, and not proceeding from any strong Principles of Virtue in her Nature. To him she fell a Sacrifice ; and her unusual Rotundity, and additional Size, soon convinced the World, that she had not lived all her Life, without a Participation of those Pleasures, which the Rakes call extatic, the prudish low, and Divines carnal ; but which all, at certain Periods, to a greater or less Degree indulge.

This Lady added to a pretty-enough Face, a well - shaped Leg, a tolerable white Skin, and an agreeable Voice, but her Shape was too much *Dutch* to be genteel, and bore too great a Resemblance to a Bundle, to have any Dignity : Her Gait was awkward, and her Nose of the *Roman* Species ; her Features were pretty regular, and, upon the whole, she was what the World calls tolerable.

During this Lady's Pregnancy, *De la Fontaine* procured a Commission in the *Dutch* Service, to go to *Curraffoe*, a Colony in *America* ; but suspended his setting out till his Lady should be delivered, as her Hour was not very far distant. After her Delivery he took his Leave, not without a Flood of Tears on the Lady's Part, and Protestations

tations of Fidelity on the Captain's Pro-
testations, which he soon forgot, and which
he made only to sooth the Lady in the An-
guish of parting. When he arrived at *Cu-
rassoe*, he found the Climate so unwhol-
some, that his Health was daily impaired,
which excited him to solicit the Govern-
ment to change his Destination, and permit
him to go to another Colony, with which
they complied ; and he soon removed to
Surenham, another Colony belonging to the
Dutch, where he resided five Years and an
half.

At his Arrival he waited on the Go-
vernor, who received him with great Po-
liteness, and invited him to partake the
Pleasures of Dancing, which he exhibited
once a Week to the Officers and Persons of
Rank in the Colony. At one of these Balls
appeared a Lady of great Distinction and
Fortune, a Widow of one of the Lords
of the Regency there ; she was, without
Diffimulation, vain of her Person ; she had
Wit, Elegance, Politeness, and Delicacy :
But then her Deportment, though inex-
pressibly graceful, carried in it an Air of
Levity and Coquetishness, which invited
the Captain to make a Trial of his Person
and Qualifications, and lay fairly a Siege
to her Heart ; and, the better to succeed,

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he gave all Reserve and timid Caution to the Wind, and called upon Flattery, and never-failing Assurance to his Assistance. Thus furnished for the Attack, he was not long in making the Onset. But there is a Distance, which Persons of Condition naturally claim over their Inferiors, that, in spite of the most confirmed Assurance, and winning Address (Qualities which seem to form a great Part of the Captain's Character) deters a Man from making too vigorous Sallies; and he must be content to undermine, by slow Degrees, before he can expect to spring the Fort. The Ladies he had already conquered, were generally equal, or inferior; but this Mademoiselle was above his Rank, which inspired a kind of Timidness, inseparable from such Circumstances.

It was his Fortune however to dine with her one Day at the Governor's, when their mutual Flame, which shone too bright not to be legible in the Eyes, was taken Notice of by the Company, who told the Captain, that his Taste was refined in chusing so delicate an Object, and wished him Success in the Gratification of it.

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He that Day conducted the Lady to her own House, and summoned every Power to render himself agreeable ; he flashed out into fashionable Conversation ; the Court of *France*, the Pleasures of *Paris*, the reigning Toasts, whom he held all as inferior to her, the governing Modes, and theatrical Amusements, were displayed with an easy Eloquence, and the Pleasures of Love and Gallantry represented with the captivating Flow of soft Persuasion.

De la Fontaine so far succeeded, that the Lady invited him to repeat his Visit, which he was not long in doing ; and found, to his Extasy, that her Heart was gradually yielding, and that many Weeks could not elapse till he should receive the ultimate Favour a Woman can bestow. He was not disappointed in his Hopes ; for a few more Visits, in spite of Pride, Birth, Dignity, and the Censure of Mankind, made her entirely his, and a blooming Boy pronounced to the World the Intimacy of their Conversation.

Mean time the Captain was not without his Troubles ; if he was happy at home, he was exposed abroad to all the Insults and Dangers of invidious Rivalship ; nor

could he form any other Expedient of getting rid of these sanguine Competitors than by challenging them one by one : But this Resolution his Heart would not permit him to pursue ; not from Want of Courage, for that he seems to have possess'd to a very extraordinary Degree, but he had Reason enough to dictate to him, that he had no Right over the Lives of his Brother-Officers ; and that whoever should fall, his Hand would unavoidably be stained with Blood-guiltiness.

One Day, however, as he was walking upon the Parade, he met with a *Dutch* Officer, one of his most inveterate Enemies, who reviled him behind his Back, and spread Calumny over every Part of his Character ; upon seeing him he assumed a frowning Look, which the other Officer returned with a most contemptuous Sneer ; upon which, being enraged, he desired the *Dutch* Officer to draw, which he absolutely refused ; then he struck him down with his Cane, and cut off one of his Ears with his Sword.

The Noise of this Combat reached the Governor's Ear, who ordered *De la Fontaine* to be confined in the Castle, till he should undergo the Trial of a Court-martial,

tial, which soon sat upon him, and acquitted him, as he proved his Provocation to have been great; and the *Dutch* Officer was so disgraced as to have his Sword broke over his Head, and banished the Colony.

After this Exploit, *De la Fontaine* found himself still more respected; but, at the same time, could discern that it was more from Dread of his Prowess than Affection; for it is natural to behave complaisantly to those we fear, tho' we bear them the most confirmed Hatred. From this Principle flowed the Respect paid to *De la Fontaine*. Mean time he continued in the full Possession of the Lady's Heart, for whom he had performed this Exploit, and every Year produced a fresh Pledge of their Loves. This Intercourse lasted four Years, when the Captain saw himself surrounded with a Family; but three of these Infants were called from this World, and a surviving Son is now under the Protection of the Government.

After he had been settled in the Colony of *Surinham* about a Twelvemonth, an Order came from the Court of *England* to the *States-General*, to pursue one *Delouvignie* for the Murther of his Master, Mr. *Cantillion*, a Banker in *London*. This cruel Af-

faſſin cut his Maſter's Throat, ſet his Houſe on Fire, and fled to *Holland* for Shelter from the ſevere Stroke of Juſtice that impended over his Head. There being ſome Intelligence that he had retired to a neighbouring Colony, and lived under the Protection of a Jew, as a private Gentleman, the States commanded our Governor to ſend out a Detachment in Queſt of him, that he might be ſent over to *England*, to receive the Punishment due to ſo black a Perpetration.

The Council of War being held, the Officers of the ſeveral Corps received their Orders to march, amongſt whom *De la Fontaine* was not nominated, which fired him ſo with Reſentment, that his Zeal and Ability ſhould be diſtrufled in ſo important an Affair, that he preſented a Remonſtrance to the Governor, who, pleaſed to obſerve his military Spirit and Ardour to face Danger, granted him the Liberty of joining the Detachment,

The Proviſions for the Expedition being ſecured, every Officer, with his Men, took different Routs, but they returned without Succeſs. It was the Miſfortune of *De la Fontaine* to wander with his little Corps, conſiſting of ten Black-men, ten White-men, a Sergeant,

jeant, and a Drummer, into a Wood, out of which he could not, for five Weeks, find the Way. At that Season there fell incessant Rains, which rendered the Wood almost uninhabitable : They had no Sustenance but such as the Wood afforded, by shooting Wild Beasts, Monkeys, and Parrots. They placed their Hammocks between the Branches of Trees, and in that Manner avoided being swept away by the Rains. The Thickness of the Wood prevented their seeing the Sun, and they were involved as it were in impenetrable Night ; they attempted to cut their Way, but that Expedient was too laborious and tedious.

During this Distress, the Captain maintained an Evenness of Temper, a certain Intrepidity of Spirit, that enabled him to surmount almost every Difficulty. One Day he climbed to the Top of a Tree, and looking through his Telescope, he espied, about a Mile's Distance, a Creek that seemed to be quite dry, and on the Inside of the Wood appeared a Boat, with some Blacks in it ; this inspired him immediately with fresh Vigour ; imagining the Person he saw there to be the Villain, of whom he was in Pursuit, he ordered his Men forthwith to march ; nor was he disappointed in his Hopes, he seized him with
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his Blacks, and, by slow Marches, after putting them in Irons, returned to the Seat of the Governor, who received him with great Tendernefs, as he had, long ago, given him up as loft, either as having perished with Hunger, or devoured by Wild Beasts.

In the Wood there was found a Boy about ten Years old ; his Hair was as white as Snow, which was looked upon as a great Curiofity. He could give no Account how he came there, nor to whom he belonged. He was as ignorant as the Savages of the Defert, and gave no Proof of Rationality beyond the Beasts that perish. He had provided for his Sufenance in the Wood by the Means which Hunger dictated : And it will not be improper here to obferve, how ignorant thofe muft remain, whose Minds are not cultivated by Education, and taught the Principles of Religion.

This Boy had no Idea of a Supreme Being ; and, had he ftill remained detached from the Society of Men, it may be greatly doubted if ever he would have had any ; nor can a Panegyric be due to thofe who would fubftitute what they call the Light of Nature, in room of the celeftial Flame of Revelation, whose pureft Ray diffipates the
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the Clouds of Ignorance, and illuminates the Soul with the divine Irradiations of the Knowledge of God and Nature.

Upon *De la Fontaine's* returning successful from this Expedition, his Interest with the Governor was greatly strengthened; and he so insinuated himself into his Favour, that he had a Portion of Land assigned him as a Plantation, which he cultivated with Care, and from which considerable Profits arose.

In this oeconomic Solitude he lived with this Widow of Quality, but not altogether free from the Attacks of Rivals; for a domestic Black, hired by one of them, conveyed some Poison to him, mixed with his Soup; which, though too weak to prove mortal, yet threw him into a lingering Disorder, that was likely to put an End to his Life; and, what was still more terrible, proved fatal to the Lady; for, such was her Tendernefs for *De la Fontaine*, that the Apprehensions of his being in Danger, so overwhelmed her with Grief, that she fell into a Consumption, and soon after died.

No sooner had she closed her Eyes, than all that was dear to him in the Colony

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being gone, he sollicitated the Governor for his Permission to return to *Holland*, who granted his Request, from the Regard he had for his Health, which, at that Time, demanded a more favourable Climate to restore it.

Upon his Arrival in *Holland*, he took a House at *Amsterdam*, and used the Exercise of riding to recover his Health, which, in a few Months, he found entirely restored: He apply'd himself, for near a Twelve-month in this Place, to reading Books of Taste, the *Italian* and *French* Poets, and made considerable Progress in the Sciences and polite Arts; for the past Part of his Life being spent in a perpetual Bustle, either of Business or Pleasure, he had dedicated but little Time to reading: And however in the Course of his Adventures and Intrigues he had acquired a general Knowledge of the World, and had qualified himself for all the Purposes of gay or active Life, yet he found frequently that his not having read, was a great Detriment to him; and that though a Man of the World makes always a better Figure than a Scholar, simply so, without any Knowledge of Life, yet that the finest Address, and most ample Experience in worldly Agitations, received additional Graces from

from the Advantage of a Knowledge in Books, and a Cultivation the Learning of the Ancients.

He had often heard the Duke of *Berwick* observe (than whom a better accomplished Gentleman, in the most extensive Signification of the Epithet, never appeared in any Court) that History, of all other Branches of Knowledge, was to be cultivated with the greatest Assiduity, as it not only shewed us the Genius and Spirit that agitated those who have been in the Possession of the World before us, but that by these Means we accumulated the Experience of past Ages, and by setting the Example of Heroes before us, we felt an Emulation spring in our Bosoms, to animate us to tread in the same Paths of Honour and Renown.

He was often heard to say, that he was taught more Patience, Meekness, and Resignation from the Example of his Royal Grandfather, than by all the Lectures of Philosophers, ancient and modern. That ever-illustrious Martyr, with a Greatness of Soul peculiar to his Family, suffered all the Indignities offered him by an infamous Rebellion, and *resisted gloriously unto Blood*, whose Fate, as it stands a perpetual Stain on

the *English* Annals, yet sets an Example to the World of the most sacred Piety, inviolable Honour, and steady Heroism.

In Compliance to the above Observation, *De la Fontaine*, for some Time, read History; and, being a Man of Penetration, could not fail to make proper Remarks from what he read. He, at last, grew weary of his Solitude, and entered into a Resolution to come over to *England*, it being the only Nation in *Europe* with whose Manners he was unacquainted.

When he arrived in *London*, he saw, as it were, a new World bursting on his Eyes; he could not, but with Astonishment, behold how many Nations seemed to be crowded into this great Metropolis. In the Scenes of Business, were to be found People from all Corners of the World, engaged in the common Pursuit of Wealth; nor need any one be a Stranger in this Country who walks the *Royal Exchange*. At the Court, he found Gentlemen of every Nation assembled about the *British* Monarch; some for the Acquisition of Knowledge, being Travellers for Improvement, others, whose Business it was to attend publick Transactions, and the far greater Part
to

to acquire a Living amongst a People more wealthy than their own.

Amidst this Pomp of Royalty and Opulence of Citizens, *De la Fontaine* conceived some Hopes of mending his Fortune ; nor did he find the *English* Fair-Ones any thing inferior to the most celebrated Beauties of *France* and *Italy*. But, before he entered the Lists of Courtship, he thought proper to spend some Time in enquiring into the Temper and Disposition of the People, whether they were to be won by Blandishment, dazzled with Appearance, or convinced by Reason,

He took Lodgings in a Coffee-house in *Suffolk-street*, where the most distinguished *French* Gentlemen resorted ; and there met with a Character, upon whom a more fit Appellation cannot be bestowed, than that he is the *Iago* of the Age, with this additional Aggravation, that he pursued another's Ruin, without being incensed, and that too in Spite of Gratitude, a Principle which ought to have strongly affected him, from the Obligations he received, and which in a Nature less diabolical, could not have been violated.

But

But before the Captain felt the Workings of this Son of Darknefs, he had Leisure to observe the universal Freedom which reigned in *London*, in writing and speaking Opinions, both as to state and ecclesiastical Affairs: He saw no blind Reverence paid to the Priests; nor was the Government so terrible as to make any one quake. He was indeed surprized to find how little Influence those who hold the superior Ranks in Life had over the inferior: There seemed to reign here, comparatively speaking, a kind of general Equality. The Nobles he found were only Lords of their own Families; and that the meanest had an Opportunity, by additional Wealth, to arrive at the highest Preferments of the State: Money only made Distinctions; and that, in such a Nation, every one had something to hope, and nothing but Guilt could inspire Fear.

The military Gentlemen he found were held in great Esteem for their Character as Soldiers; but could not pay them the Compliment to say, that they made the most shining Figure: For in *England* he remarked, that there were fewer Gentlemen of the *Clotb* distinguished for great Qualities, than in any other dignified Occupation.

No sooner had *De la Fontaine* finished his Enquiries into the Genius and Temper of the *English*, than he began to solicit the Conversation of the Gay and Polite, a Privilege which he was not long in obtaining; which the Splendor of his Appearance entitled him to, and his fine Address easily procured.

It cannot be doubted but a Man of his Penetration made frequent Remarks upon the Deportment, Education, and Pleasures, of those who held the upper Ranks in Life; that he frequently compared the State of Grandeur with that of Mediocrity; and, by general Observations, deduced some moral Inference concerning the Felicity of both Spheres.

In High Life he could often observe Cowardice, Deceit, Meanness, and Ignorance, basely lurking beneath the Ermines of Dignity; and, in Middle Life, Intrepidity, Fidelity, Honour, Bravery, and all the Qualifications requisite to form a Statesman or a Hero, covered in the Robes of a Mechanic. On the other Hand, in Upper Life he often found Patience, Meekness, Tenderneſs, and Softneſs of Nature, out-shining, by infinite Degrees, all the
Brilliance

Brilliance of Court Splendor : And, in Lower Life, Pride, Cruelty, Revenge, and all the Seeds of despotic Tyranny.

The Rich, he observed, often were ruined by the Possession of Opulence, for which they never struggled ; and the inferior Ranks ruined by an Emulation, which animated them to pursue Enjoyments out of their Power ; and which, when they thought they had attained, never failed to elude their Grasp.

As *De la Fontaine* advanced in the Esteem of the Gay, *Iago*, whose Schemes were deep, and almost impenetrable, behaved to him with extraordinary Humility. He was solicitous to please him in the most minute Circumstance, and so ingratiated himself in his Favour, that he received a general Invitation to *De la Fontaine's* Table.

This cunning Parasite was all the while hatching some Scheme to destroy his Friend ; but first was willing to drain his Pockets of some Money ; and, for this Purpose, he pretended one Day to be arrested for a Debt of three hundred Pounds, and sent for his Friend to bail him ; and such was the Artifice and Subtilty of this Impostor, that the Captain complied ; for he pretended that
he

he would soon pay him, having a very large Estate in *Ireland*. The Fellow went off, and the Captain paid the Money; which, no doubt, was shared by Collusion betwixt the Officer and him.

The Captain as yet had been without an Amour, when a favourable Opportunity of a Procession of the Free Masons through *London*, furnished him with one. Upon the Day of the Procession, he dressed himself with unusual Splendor; his Chariot was the finest in the Company; and all his Equipage was formed with so much Taste, that the Eyes of the Populace were soon fixed upon him, some mistaking him for the *French Ambassador*: Amongst his Admirers on that Occasion was a young Lady, the Daughter of a late Lord Mayor, who could not be satisfied with feasting her Eyes upon him, but sent her Footman to enquire, at the Place of their Entertainment, who he was.

He, two Days after, received a Letter from a Fair Incognita, inviting him to a Ball at *Richmond*; she described the Dress she should appear in, and begg'd of him to behave with Reserve. *De la Fontaine*, to whom Intrigues had become familiar, hastened to the Affignation, and succeeded be-

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yond his warmest Expectations ; she invited him to her Father's Seat near *Richmond*, where he next Day waited upon her ; and, had not the Father taken necessary Precautions, the young Lady would soon have become his Wife, or have fallen a Sacrifice to her Passion.

The Courtship was at last broke off ; and *De la Fontaine*, finding his Cash diminished, began in earnest to think of Matrimony, being wearied of the dissipated roving Life of a Batchelor. He was not long in compleating his Scheme ; for, in a few Months, he married a Widow, with a Fortune of several Thousand Pounds. With her he lived in great Splendor, and much above his Income ; for he seems to have been a Slave to Gaiety.

But though this lucky Incident was sufficient to have secured him against all future Frowns of Fortune, yet it cannot be said, that, in a State of Marriage, he behaved with so much Honour as might have been expected from one who owed so great a Fortune to his Wife : He then carried on Intrigues, and spent his Money in Pursuit of Pleasures, which, to a Husband, ought to appear detestable. Without Fidelity on both Sides, there can be no conjugal Felicity ;

city; and surely they merit to suffer the terrible Consequences, who enter into Vows of Honour, and impiously dare to break them.

Amongst the Ladies, with whom he at that Time intrigued, was the celebrated *Irish* Courtezan, who has since favoured the World with her Memoirs. The Captain became acquainted with her by Accident, and improved it to the best Advantage. She told him her Story, which was indeed pitiful; for the Injuries received from her Husband were very enormous. She possessed, with an ordinary Person, an infinite Share of Wit, and an agreeable Address; her Conversation was lively, and Memory miraculous; in short, never was any one better formed for a Mistress; for she knew the Art of pleasing to its full Perfection: She never lost her Delicacy, nor a Sense of Virtue; she had all the Modesty and Tenderness of a Wife; and one might easily see, that she was driven to Infidelity by the Tyranny of a Husband, and not from Wantonness or Love of Variety. She had long groaned under the most cruel Treatment of a Villain; for so, till he has disproved the Facts she has urged against him, he *must* be called; and, if she was unfortunate, the Shame be *his* who drove

her into Misery. It will not be amiss to observe here, that the World has been favoured with the Memoirs of three modern Courtezans, of as great Note as any in *Europe*; and, upon reading their Stories, the following Character may not improperly be given.

In the *Irish* Lady we see an injured Wife, who, with a good Husband, would have proved faithful, tender, and indulgent, but whose cruel Treatment drove her to Despair, and to revenge the Affronts of her Tyrant cruelly upon herself (by plunging into Prostitution) at which her Soul at first was startled, and of which she repented with the severest Pangs of Contrition.

In *Teresia*, we see a young Innocent betray'd; flattered first out of her Virtue, and then flatter'd into a Continuance in Vice; a Love of Splendor was her Ruin; she seems never to have lost her other Virtues with her Chastity, for she appears to be compassionate, and, in the ordinary Transactions of Life, honourable. She has a Spirit of uncommon Fortitude; and not confined to *England* alone, she has carried her Conquests to the other Side the Globe, and subdued great Part of the *American* World.

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In Lady *Frail*, we see a brazen Strumpet, wicked for the Sake of being so ; unsatiable in her Gratifications, untouched with Remorse, and still gasping for Enjoyment ; she is a Disgrace to her Sex ; and every Period of her Story excites a Blush in the Innocent. The other two may share our Pity, she claims our Scorn. The other two have acknowledged their Errors, she triumphs in Guilt ; and, if she appears to have possessed superior Charms, she falls greatly short in Point of Understanding : And, indeed, it is beyond Dispute, that the Lady of the least personal Accomplishments, shone above the other two in Genius and elegant Writing.

But, of all his Frolicks in Gallantry, none ever cost him so many Pangs of Remorse, as an Intrigue, which, at that Time, he carried on with the Wife of a very eminent and wealthy Trader. This was his first adulterous Amour, or at least with any Woman who lived with her Husband.

This Lady had received a very liberal Education, and had, in her maiden State, trod all the Rounds of fashionable Diversions : She was naturally gay, and sprightly, possess'd a fine Person, with a very
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considerable Share of Understanding. She had early been accustomed to think that nothing that was not fashionable could please; she had drawn her Notions from Tragedies and Comedies; her Head was full of Romances; and, with these Qualifications, was very unfit to be the Wife of a Citizen, whose chief Elegance is Neatness, and whose capital Virtue Oeconomy.

The Man whom her Relations had made her Husband, was good-natur'd, sincere, and honourable; but had none of that Gaiety of Humour, or Elegance of Appearance that could allure a Woman of her Turn: He was plodding and industrious, but ungenteel and ungraceful: And under this Disadvantage it is not to be supposed, that the Heart of a Coquet could long remain subject to him.

De la Fontaine occasionally met with this Lady at a Lord-Mayor's Ball; he was struck with her Appearance, and made his Addresses; she yielded without much Solicitation, and they had several private Interviews.]

One Day *De la Fontaine* sent, by his Footman, a Letter, inviting her to an Affignation

tion at a Tavern in *Holborn* : This Letter the Husband intercepted, opened, and read with all the Astonishment that an injured Man can feel, when he first discovers the Infidelity of a Wife he doats on, and loves almost to Distraction.

The Letter he sealed again, and had it conveyed to her Hand in such a Manner that she could not suspect that it had undergone the Inspection of her Husband. He went immediately to her Brother, disclosed, with Tears in his Eyes, the cruel Story, and lamented, with the most tender Sorrow, her unexpected Prostitution.

The Brother heard the News with immoderate Transports of Grief, and agreed with the Husband to go to the Place of Assignment, and there take an Opportunity of having ocular Demonstration of her Guilt. When they entered the Tavern, they gave Orders to the Waiters, that if a Lady should enquire for *De la Fontaine*, that he should she conducted to their Room.

They waited the Hour with Impatience; every Foot on the Stair pierced the Husband's Heart like a Dagger. At last she came, and, rushing into the Room,

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O terrible ! the first Object she saw was her Husband, in all the Agony of confirmed Suspicion. Reproachful Looks, for some Time, supply'd their Speech. He, at last, melted with returning Fondness, and told her, that tho' she had left him without any Doubt of her Infidelity, yet that he would take her again to his Arms, if she would vow, with Sincerity, before her Brother, never again to violate her Honour. To this she answered with Disdain, and flung out of the Room.

She hastened to *De la Fontaine*, and revealed the Story, not without the highest Emotions of Rage and Fury, at the Discovery. *De la Fontaine*, who was not then in a Condition to support a Mistress of that Rank ; besides, his being already engaged with more Ladies than he could well please, strenuously advised her to return with Contrition to her Husband.

This Instance of Indifference in a Man, for whom she had risked her Husband's Resentment, and sacrificed her Virtue, struck her Soul like a Thunder-bolt ; Rage succeeded to Fondness ; and, seeing herself destitute of one to protect her, she, at last, resolved to put the Captain's Expedient in Execution, and wrote a Letter to her Husband,

band, full of Expressions of Remorse, and sincere Repentance. This generous Trader no sooner read her Letter, than his Heart melted with returning Fondness; he flew to her Arms with the Eagerness of a Bridegroom, accepted her Protestations of future Fidelity, and held her again as the Darling of his Bosom.

De la Fontaine, upon hearing this tender Behaviour of an injured Husband, whom he had contributed to afflict with the severest Misery, was touched to the Heart: He began to think of his dissolute Course of Life, and to see the pernicious Consequence of lawless Indulgence in Intrigues, which breaks the Concord of Families, exposes Beauty to Disgrace, and dashes to Pieces the general Obligations of Honour and Virtue.

Full of the Resolution of Constancy, and firmly intending more Oeconomy in his Pleasures, he retired into the Country with his Lady for some Months, where he spent his Time very agreeably, with a few select Companions that he carried to the Country with him. But the Season of Pleasure returning, and the cold Weather at the same Time approaching, he came again to Town, with a sincere Inten-

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tion

tion to desist from any further Pursuits in Gallantry, and live with his Lady in an amiable Way.

But scarce had he arrived in Town, when *Iago*, who had all this while been forming Schemes against him, waited on him at his House; the Impostor wept, he fell at his Feet, and, with a Face of Contrition, intreated he might be forgiven his last Offence; that he was disappointed of Money, he thought was sure; and took Heaven and Earth to witness the Uprightness of his Heart. *De la Fontaine*, who was naturally compassionate, and had a Soul formed for Friendship, received again this Viper to his Bosom, whose secret Machinations soon overwhelmed him, and reduced him to the highest Degree of human Misery.

The Villain one Day invited him to dine with him at a Tavern, with which he complied; but when he entered the Room, was surprized to find his old Landlady and her Niece, in whose House he lodged when *Iago* first became acquainted with him: He sat down, however, and spent the Evening in Good-humour. About eight o'Clock a Person, whose Appearance spoke him a Gentleman, came in, enquiring for *Iago*; he

he joined the Company, and his Conversation was pretty facetious.

De la Fontaine, being a little heated with Wine, began to toy with the Niece, who had formerly been his Mistress, and to whom he had made some faint Promises of Marriage; Promises only made the better to conquer her Virtue, and which he resolved never to fulfil. Tho' it is far from acting honourably, to betray, under Appearance of an After-Marriage; yet these Fair-Ones must have little Knowledge in the Ways of Men, that, upon the Oaths of their Gallants, who in the Affairs of Love think Perjury no Crime, yield themselves to their Arms without Security. Did they reflect a Moment, they would find, that complying with their Appetites, is the most effectual Way to prevent a Marriage. The Man who has conquered, should he espouse the injured Virgin, has this Reflection always occurring to his Mind: My Wife is handsome; true; but she is frail: She fell a Sacrifice to me by Flattery and Insinuation; another Flatterer of an equal Address may likewise succeed; and how can I be certain that she won't dispense Favours after Marriage, when the Terrors of Pregnancy, and the Restraints of Shame are removed, since she granted them to me under all

these Alarms. These Reflections naturally occur, and deter a Man from marrying the Woman he has ruined.

As *De la Fontaine* was toying with his old Mistress, he observed the Stranger pull a Book out of his Pocket, and begin to read; to this he paid no Regard, nor in the least suspected a villainous Design.

They at last retired; and *De la Fontaine* was next Morning honoured with a Visit from *Iago*. A Fortnight had not elapsed 'till he was arrested by the very same Lady with whom he and *Iago* had been toying in the Tavern, she claiming him as her Husband. He was carried before Sir *Thomas De-Veil*, when he denied that ever he married her; and asserted his Marriage with the Lady already mentioned in these Memoirs. They swore it against him; and a Fleet-Parson confirmed their Asseverations. This Disgrace to the sacred Function had long practised the Celebration of irregular Marriages, and was an admirable Tool in the Hands of Villains, to perpetrate any Scheme; and 'tis pity that the ecclesiastical Thunder is not suffered to break against those Pests of Society, who should be hunted down by Well-wishers to their Country, and exposed

posed to the Ignominies their Crimes deserve.

When the Captain's Lady heard the Dilemma he was in, she hurried to the Justice's House, and offered to *De la Fontaine* to swear that she was not his Wife, if that would rescue him from the present Danger. This generous Offer was ineffectual; for he had already asserted his Marriage with her; and, indeed, such an Instance of extraordinary Passion is not to be met with in an Age: She was willing to be thought a Prostitute, the most shocking Consideration to an ingenuous Nature, rather than he should be exposed to the Rigours of a Jail, and perhaps to the Severity of the Law.

This Behaviour by some may be reckon'd blameable; but if it is a Fault, yet is it of such a Kind, that an honest Mind would ever remember the Offer with the tenderest Gratitude, and be ready to adore that Wife who would do, for her Husband, so high an Act of Disinterestedness.

There was no Remedy; to *Newgate* he must go; and there languish in Misery 'till his Trial should come on. It will be proper here to observe, that the Fortune the

Captain had with his Lady was almost all spent ; and they were both now in a State of deplorable Indigence. In his Confinement he was visited by *Iago*, whose Villainy had thus reduced him, making Offers of Service, and of mitigating the Rage of the old Landlady's Niece, provided he would give him a Sum of Money : This impudent Offer, from a Fellow whose cruel Machinations had ruin'd him, provoked him to the highest Degree ; he could not contain his Resentment, but let it loose in an hearty Drubbing of the Rascal with a Broomstick, the only Instrument then in his Reach.

Some of his old Acquaintances occasionally visited him, but he found them cold and indifferent : “ They were never before in *Newgate* ; it is surely a terrible Place ; they were afraid of the Jail Distemper ; something or another always came in the Way ; they were sorry for his Misfortune ; but, to be sure, the Law” — In this unaffected Manner did they talk, which convinced the Captain, to his Experience, of the great Difference betwixt Companions and Friends. Splendor and Opulence will always procure Flatterers ; Abilities will raise Admirers ; but the Advances to Friendship are by slow Degrees, and very few attain

attain the Summit: When Affliction comes, the Coffee-house Intimates soon abandon him; the Tatlers of an Hour vanish; and the Fops and Butterflies that buzz'd around him know him no more.

To resent the Affront offered him in Jail, *Iago* was industrious to animate his Prosecutors, and found out another Affair still more black to urge against him, of no less atrocious a Nature than Forgery; a more full Account of which cannot be given than in the following simple, unadorned Representation, drawn up by some of the Captain's Friends, and submitted to the Public; by which it may be easily seen, that *De la Fontaine* owed the greatest Part of his Misery to the Contrivances of this Villain; and that he may rather be reckoned amongst the Unfortunate than the Guilty.

The

The C A S E
OF
PETER DE LA FONTAINE,
L A T E A

LIEUTENANT of Foot in the
Dutch Forces, and now a Pri-
soner in Newgate, London:

*Humbly offered to the Consideration of such
Generous and Humane Persons, as can
lend an Ear of Pity to the Voice of the
Afflicted.*

THE Prisoner humbly hopes, by thus
plainly representing his Calamities,
that, instead of occasioning any Offence, he
may excite the Compassionate to consider
his long and deep Distress, and afford him
their favourable Interposition with Autho-
rity, for the Alleviation of his Misfortunes;
and, he doubts not of obtaining a speedy
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Deliverance from his Troubles. But, being destitute both of Money and Friends, or of a creditable Protector to represent the Hardness of his Case, and his miserable Condition, hath kept him hitherto in heavy Bonds, though he has, for four Years, humbly sued for further Mercy.

His Misfortunes take their Beginning from the Malice and Treachery of one *John Baptist Zannier*, a *Venetian* by Birth, but late a Bankrupt from *Manheim* in *Germany*, who denied his Hand to a promissory Note for about 220 *l.* Sterling, indorsed to the Prisoner, who gave it to Mr. *Perry*, the Prosecutor, to whom he was indebted about 40 *l.* and in Prison for Non-payment : But the Prosecutor declared, three several Times at the Trial, as he has since by his Affidavit, that he did not take it in Payment, nor was asked, nor had given one Farthing upon it, but only took it as a secondary Security to the Prisoner's Bond. It will appear from the Relation of a few incontestable Facts, that the said *Zannier* bears the vilest Character, and is

capable of the most atrocious Villainy ; which is evidenced, by being rejected at his Majesty's *Treasury* in his Solicitations for 2400 *l.* falsely pretending himself to be the legal Attorney of the Widow *Le Fevre* at *Paris*.

2dly, For being forced to return the Letter of Administration, he had obreptitiously obtained, upon no less than seven false Allegations ; which Letters were retaken from him and granted to the Widow.

3dly, For being cast at *Guild-hall* by the Lord Chief Justice *L—*, for pretending to invalidate, by crafty and fraudulent Exception, a Bill of Exchange for 186 *l.* to one *Peter Coupé*.

4thly, For being non-suited, after three Trials, in the Court of *Common Pleas*, by the Lord Chief Justice *W—*, on a false and vexatious Arrest of the said *Peter Coupé*, the very Man to whom he was justly indebted in the said Sum of 186 *l.* and who, after all, actually lost the Money by *Zanni-er's* Bankruptcy.

And,

And, *lastly*, Having got out of Prison by the Act of Grace, he gave in to his Creditors, a false and fictitious Schedule of those he pretended to be his Debtors ; and particularly a Claim of no less than 800 *l.* on the Widow *Le Fevre's* true and legal Attorney, *Gabriel Laumonier*, for Devoirs and Disburses, in his Sollicitations, whilst he was endeavouring to make the Widow's Effects his own : The L— H— C— gave Judgment against his Agents, with Costs and Charges, amounting to 140*l.* 1*s.*

This is the Man who has made a Sacrifice of the unhappy Prisoner, with a View to make Way for his denying Numbers of promissory Notes scattered in this Town ; and, by the Instance of one, to invalidate them all : And so villainously trumped up a pretended Forgery of his Hand by the unhappy Prisoner, as he very well knew that other Notes would be continually appearing against him ; so, by his Exception, none would be willing to run so great a Hazard in claiming their Property, having

the Prisoner's unhappy Fall before their Eyes. He freely dispensed such Notes to any Persons that could be drawn in to supply him with twenty or thirty Guineas in ready Cash upon his Note, for one or two hundred Guineas, that he might be enabled to carry on his wicked Schemes, and intrude into other People's Possessions; which, if he had succeeded in, his Intention could be no other than to make off with the Money, and pay all his Notes, at once, by his Flight.

These are but a few of the many Tricks and Cheats committed by this abandoned Man; and, as these are all publicly known, the Prisoner humbly presumes, it will make other Circumstances appear greatly to his Advantage. A Gentleman of known Integrity and Honour, who chanced to be called as an Evidence at the Prisoner's Trial, upon the Report of his being well apprized of *Zannier's* Hand and Character, gave such strong Proof of the said Note of *Zannier's* being genuine, that the Prisoner was acquitted of the Forgery,

gery ; but was surprized how the Prisoner could be guilty of a criminal Utterance, when he was acquitted of the Forgery ; and it was not proved there was any Forgery ; and if there had, that the Prisoner knew of it : And likewise thought it very strange that *Zannier*, who denied his Hand, was not brought and examined in Court, since, being a Prisoner in the *Fleet*, he was at Command in a Case of Life and Death : Whereas, there appeared in his Behalf only two *Irishmen*, his Agents, worthless Fellows, who stiled themselves Lawyers, tho', in Reality, the greatest Scandal and Stain to that honourable Profession ; these Wretches being questioned in Court, publicly answered, they were only *Students*, and had Chambers, not *in*, but *near* the *Temple*.

These alone were *Zannier's* Evidences, who boldly, daringly, and, in Defiance of Justice, affirmed any Thing, yet but in the Negative, though they would not have scrupled to say any Thing in the Affirmative, being the Tools of his Knavery, and

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Sharers in the Produce of their Frauds, Then it appears, that the Question was, if the Hand to the Note was genuine; and, if so, though bad through the Insolvency of *Zannier* the Drawer, yet there could be no Crime in the uttering of it; or, if it was not genuine, or uttered, knowing it to be forged, it should have been proved against the Prisoner, which was not done.

Other Accidents happened to the Prisoner at his Trial, equally unfortunate and disadvantageous to him; he was ill served by those he trusted the Management of his Cause to: The Conclusion of his Trial was very late; and, at a Time when the Judges were withdrawn to Dinner, the J— returned their Verdict, in which it is humbly presumed, they were not sufficiently attentive to, or mistook the Judge's Opinion, when he gave them the Charge, as it seemed not to be the Judge's Sentiment, that the Prisoner was guilty of any Utterance.

gery,

Every Thing unfortnnate and destruc-
 tive, seemed to conspire against the wretch-
 ed Prisoner ; for the Report made to his
 Majesty in 1746, by Mr. Recorder S——,
 was very unfavourable to him, yet given
 in Honour and Conscience for so much as
 the Recorder knew of an unknown Fo-
 reigner, in whose Behalf, or to whose Cha-
 racter no Person appeared, which has been
 since very differently represented, and made
 out in his Favour, even with this Circum-
 stance, That the Recorder being applied to
 afterwards, declared, *He was very sorry for
 what had happened, but could not recall his
 Word, as he had given it, so far as he knew ;
 but that, as he could do him no Service now,
 so he would not, in any Shape, obstruct the just
 Plea the Prisoner could make in his own Be-
 half, in his Sollicitations for further Mercy.*

The Prisoner being a Foreigner, unac-
 quainted with the Rules of the Law, not
 sufficiently Master of the *English* Tongue,
 in the greatest Anguish and Trouble of
 Soul, for such a capital Charge, deserted
 by

by those who might have appeared in his Behalf, loaded with the Reproaches, and pursued by the Hate of others, upon Account of his being a Native of that Country this Nation was then at War with; he was not able, he had not Words to express himself with, to shew how much he abhorred the committing so iniquitous a Crime, as was there laid to his Charge; and said no more after the Verdict, than *He was no such Man, nor guilty of such Fact.*

All the foregoing Circumstances are thoroughly known to have been recited at large, and Affidavits thereof made by two honourable and worthy Gentlemen, who, it is well known, would scorn to appear in a bad Cause, especially one of so black a Nature as this, were they not fully and perfectly convinced of the Prisoner's Innocence.

The Prisoner, tho' pardoned of Death, has endured a Confinement of four Years and upwards, three Months in the Cells,
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and fifteen Months in the closest Imprisonment, and in heavy Irons; besides the most intolerable Hardships which he suffered from the other Prisoners, abandoned by the few Acquaintance he had, but no real Friends. So that had not Almighty God in his Providence, touched the Hearts of some charitable Persons, he must long since have perished with Hunger and Cold. And as this Support has not only been very precarious, but at long and uncertain Intervals, he has endured the extremest Want, in the most rigorous Season; and Nature was always the least supported *within*, when he had not Apparel to fence him from the Cold *without*.

It is the only Happiness the Prisoner enjoys (which, at Times, gives him some small Gleams of Content and Chearfulness) that he is entirely, and in every Respect innocent of the Charge for which his Sufferings, and all the bitter Calamities he has undergone, take their Spring.

Thus he has plainly and faithfully related his Imprisonment and Sufferings,
I
and

and the real Cause of all his Woe, humbly and respectfully hoping his Misery will excite all good Christians to Pity, and contribute to relieve him.

Whether this Representation is true, the Reader may easily discern, by turning to the *Sessions-Paper* for *December*, in the Mayoralty of Alderman *Benn*. And, indeed, during his Trial, he behaved with the same unshaken Fortitude, that animated him in every other Transaction of Life.

No sooner had he received Sentence, than a compassionate Gentleman, who commiserated his Misfortune, went directly to a Nobleman, whom *De la Fontaine* had visited at the *Hague*, to solicit his Interposition with his Majesty. The Nobleman remembered the unhappy Prisoner, and offered all his Interest in his Behalf, in which he succeeded; for the Captain from Time to Time, received a Respite; and, on the last *September* Sessions, pleaded his Majesty's Pardon for Transportation for Life.

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Since he has been in *Newgate*, he has undergone, besides the Rigour of a Jail, and a long six Year's Eclipse of the living World, various adventitious Calamities, exposed to Indigence, thrown on a Bed of Sickness, reduced to associate with the most abject Wretches, whose Impieties and Blasphemies, profane Oaths and shocking Execrations, form such a horrible Scene, as cannot be exceeded but by the Yellings of Damnation ; all which he has supported with such an uncommon Spirit, that he yet has the Appearance of a Man greatly superior to Misfortunes, and above the cruelest Blows of persecuting Fortune.

One cannot contemplate this Greatness of Soul, without inwardly lamenting, that he had not suffered in an irreproachable Cause, for Loyalty, Patriotism, and Truth itself, though, in their own Natures sacred, yet have received additional Lustre from the Heorism of their bleeding Martyrs. And it is pity that he who can thus bear Misfortunes, should have been the

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Occasion, by unheeding Rashness, and the precipitate Sallies of Appetite, of drawing them upon himself.

Such is the Life of Captain *De la Fontaine* ; a Man whose Passion for Splendor laid the Foundation of all his Misery, who seems to inherit from Nature great intellectual Powers ; and which, if they had been employed under the Direction of Reason, would have secured him a Distinction equal to the Pretensions of his Birth, whose Story strongly inculcates the great Advantages of Prudence, and the dreadful Consequences of ungoverned Passions.

F I N I S.



